

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

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HUD-02 HEW-08 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

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R 291820Z MAR 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6218

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO, PARIS FOR UNESCO, ROME FOR FODAG,

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP EAID UNDP TD

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF STATE 042239

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS OUR COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARA 5 (D), WHICH IS SUBJECT OF SEPARATE TELEGRAM. WE FIND THAT THE RESIDENT UNDP STAFF DISCHARGES ITS OVERALL COORDINATING ROLE ADEQUATELY AND EFFECTIVELY, MAKING UP FOR SOME OF THE GOTT'S SHORTCOMINGS IN THIS SPHERE. UNDP IS WORKING HARD TO ELIMINATE A PROBLEM

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COMMON TO MANY OF ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN

TRINIDAD, NAMELY DELAYS IN RECRUITING UN EXPERT ADVISERS, UNFORTUNATELY COMPOUNDED BY GOTT INERTIA IN APPROVING THEM ONCE NOMINATED. ONLY OTHER MAJOR PROBLEM HAS BEEN OCCASIONAL LACK OF ADEQUATE COUNTERPART PERSONNEL, EITHER POSSESSING THE REQUISITE ABILITIES OR IN SUFFICIENT NUMBER AND POTENTIAL FOR TRAINING. WHILE THIS SITUATION HAS SOMETIME DELAYED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IT HAS NOT FORCED ABANDONMENT OF ANY PROGRAMS. GOTT IS FIRM BELIEVER IN MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND HAS EXPRESSED DEEP COMMITMENT TO A NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE 1974-78 PROGRAMMING PERIOD. EMBASSY FEELS THAT GOTT'S INTEREST WILL BE SUSTAINED AND RESULT IN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL UNDP PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO TOPICS LISTED PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL:

(A) ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM: THE UNDP REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IS CLEARLY REGARDED AS THE LEADER OF ALL UNDP ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATOR OF OTHER UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT HIS REGION. AN ASSISTANT REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDP PROGRAMS IN TRINIDAD, AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER ISLANDS. THE VALUE OF THE RESREP'S PRESENCE AND COORDINATING ABILITIES HAS BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS BY THE CONTRAST WITH THE SOMEWHAT CHAOTIC CONDITIONS WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL, WHEN SOME PROGRAMS SUFFERED DUE TO A SERIES OF ACTING AND TEMPORARY RESREPS. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNDP RESIDENT STAFF AND THE GOTT ARE EXCELLENT. WE KNOW OF NO SERIOUS CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE RESREP AND THE FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER UN AGENCIES; WE HAVE NO SPECIAL INSIGHT INTO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HEADQUARTERS LEVEL OF THESE AGENCIES. UNDP AND IBRD UNDERTAKINGS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY COMPLEMENTARY, BUT DO APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENTLY COORDINATED (THERE IS NO IBRD REPRESENTATIVE IN TRINIDAD). WHILE UNICEF PROGRAMS ARE CONSIDERED WHEN PLANNING UNDP REGIONAL ACTIVITIES, THERE SEEMS TO BE RELATIVELY LITTLE UNICEF INPUT INTO THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE.

(B) COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
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COORDINATION AMONG PRINCIPAL BILATERAL (CANADA AND U.K.) AND MULTILATERAL (UN AND OAS) DONORS IS CARRIED OUT EFFECTIVELY, THOUGH INFORMALLY, BY THE DONOR ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES. THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FREQUENTLY CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION REGARDING REQUESTED AND PROPOSED ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. THE UNDP ASSISTANT RESREP IS ACTIVE IN ENCOURAGING AND COORDINATING THESE INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION. ALTHOUGH ON PAPER THE GOTT'S

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IS SUPPOSED TO REVIEW AND COORDINATE ALL REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IN FACT IT RARELY PERFORMS SUCH A ROLE. INDEED, THIS MINISTRY WILL SOMETIME INDIVIDUALLY CONTACT A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE DONORS WITH AN IDENTICAL REQUEST, IGNORING THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE DONORS THEMSELVES FAILED TO CONSULT ONE ANOTHER.

(C) COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS: THE FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE RECENTLY APPROVED (JANUARY 1974) UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY 1975. NO PLANS OR PREPARATIONS FOR THIS REVIEW HAVE AS YET BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

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(D) APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS: THIS IS THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

(E) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: THE EMBASSY HAS LITTLE DETAILED

KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFIC UN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. PROJECTS WHICH ARE GENERALLY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL INCLUDE LAND VALUATION (UNOTC), SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY (UNIDO), COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT (ILO), AND ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (UNIDO). THERE IS NO RECORD OF ANY WEAK PROJECTS HAVING BEEN ELIMINATED, BUT UNDP IS WORKING ASSIDUOUSLY TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND STRENGTHEN SUCH PROJECTS. AMONG THE COMMON OBSTACLES HAVE BEEN DELAYS IN RECRUITING QUALIFIED UN EXPERTS (COMPOUNDED BY A FEW INSTANCES OF UNCONSCIONABLE DELAYS ON THE GOTT'S PART IN APPROVING EXPERTS NOMINATED BY UNDP--ONE CASE TOOK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVER A YEAR), AS WELL AS A LACK OF QUALIFIED TRINIDADIAN COUNTERPARTS OR TRAINEES FOR SOME PROJECTS. THE UNDP STAFF IS WELL AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND DEVOTES MUCH TIME TO SPEEDING UP THE GOTT'S SNAIL-LIKE PROCESS OF PROJECT FORMULATION AND APPROVAL OF ADVISORS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE VERY PROMISING PROJECT--THE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM--COMMENCED IN FEBRUARY 1972, BUT WILL NOT HAVE A FULL-FLEDGED DIRECTOR UNTIL MID-1974. DELAYS IN THIS PROJECT HAVE BEEN DUE TO A COMBINATION OF RECRUITING PROBLEMS COUPLED WITH NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED FELLOWSHIPS. ASIDE FROM THE PERSONNEL PROBLEMS ALLUDED TO HERE, THE GOTT HAS MADE ITS UNDP COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS FULLY AND PROMPTLY.

(F) PROJECT EVALUATION: TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM HAS ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH RESPECT TO SOME PROJECTS, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL MAJOR PROJECTS WILL HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY END OF 1974. AS YET, WE HAVE NO INDICATION AS TO EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE REVIEWS. WE HAVE NOT SEEN RESREP'S ANNUAL REPORT, BUT IN THE PAST RECEIVED COPIES OF THE ASSISTANT (CONCERNED WITH TRINIDAD) RESREP'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT. THESE REPORTS, PREPARED FOR WIDE DISSEMINATION, TEND TO ESCHEW ANY SORT OF CRITICISM. WE FEEL THAT TRIPARTITE REVIEWS ARE MORE LIKELY TO YIELD MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENTS OF PROJECTS THAN ARE SUMMARY REVIEWS COVERING ENTIRE SCOPE OF UNDP ACTIVITIES.

(G) FOLLOW-UP WITH UNDP AND EXECUTING AGENCIES: WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS TO SUGGEST, BUT DO FEEL IT WORTHWHILE TO POINT OUT NEW PROJECTS OF SPECIAL PROMISE AND INTEREST TO THE GOTT: THESE INCLUDE THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL NURSING (WHO); DEVELOPMENT OF TOOL AND DIE PRODUCTION (UNIDO); ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL FISHERIES TRAINING INSTITUTE (UNDP/FAO REGIONAL PROJECT); AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARIBBEAN AVIATION TRAINING INSTITUTE (UNDP/ICAO REGIONAL PROJECT). THE GOTT IS A FIRM PROPONENT OF MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND ITS DEEP COMMITMENT TO PROJECTS SUCH AS THESE SHOULD ENSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1974-78 UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM.

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